



January 31, 2019

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s)

My name is Steve Rathwell and I will be teaching your son or daughter Geography this semester. Geography is a mandatory credit in Ontario in order to graduate. The course explores our world from a Canadian context and how we interact with it. Even if this is the only Geography course students are required to take, my goal to make understanding our world both interesting and valuable. The course consists of 5 strands.

- Geographic Inquiry and Skill Development (Mapping and Map Skills)
- Interactions with the Physical Environment (Physical Geography)
- Managing Canada's Resources and Industries
- Changing Populations (Human Geography)
- Liveable Communities (Human Geography)

Coursework will be done through assignments, readings, mixed media, projects, quizzes and tests. This will account for 70% of the final mark. The remaining 30% consists of a RST (Rich Summative Task 20%) and a final exam (10%).

It is essential that students stay up to date and organized. Students and parents can keep track of what was covered in class and important dates through my website:

<https://mrrathwellgeo.weebly.com>

The website also contains notes, presentations and videos that are used in class.

The many assignments, rubrics, exemplars will be posted to students Google Drive (Folder CGC1P) through HAPARA. All students have access to this through the student portal from any computer tablet or phone.

<https://sites.google.com/a/ocsbstudent.ca/7-12/>

Parents are *encouraged* to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. As a parent of a high school student myself, I know that communication can be challenging at times! I will email parents regularly, letting you know when a test is scheduled or has been returned.

Please use email as your first point of contact [steve.rathwell@ocsb.ca](mailto:steve.rathwell@ocsb.ca) for the quickest response.

I look forward to an exciting and rewarding year ahead.

Sincerely,

Steve Rathwell



